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Everybody Ought to See *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed seeing *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* because of the lively music, convincing acting, and harmonious singing. The ensemble meshed together well, which was shown by the interactions between the actors. I believe the play was cast well because the actors incorporated elements of characterization into their roles. For example, Pseudolus who was played by Zachary Glasscock portrayed physical and emotional attributes like his sassy, comedic, and larger than life personality through his movements and facial expressions. Additionally, I felt Matthew Carley, who played the role of Erronius. fulfilled his persona by having a croaky voice, limping, and acting senile. The actors seemed to be listening to one another specifically when Hero and Senex both saw Philia. There was a noticeable connection between them during the song “Impossible” because they both realized the other had feelings for Philia. They picked up their cues by feeding off of each other’s emotions and changing their view from impossible to it’s possible. Philia’s skills were equal to the demands of the music and script because her purity, innocence, and ditzy demeanor was conveyed through her character, white costume, and her performance of “Lovely.”

Glasscock without a doubt fulfilled the first responsibility of the actor – to be heard. From the opening moments of the play, he captivated my attention and drew me in for the entire show. As the role of Pseudolus, Glasscock was witty, charismatic, and hilarious throughout the whole performance. His sarcastic and comedic nature made me laugh nonstop, which is what made him such a successful actor inthis production. His singing and dancing fit his character to a tee, someone else playing the role of Pseudolus would not have been as effective. I thought Glasscock had greater acting skills than singing and dancing because when he was narrating he was the most effective and seemed to make anything funny. He had appropriate diction because I always understood what he was saying. Glasscock added mannerisms to his performance, which magnified his clever portrayal of Pseudolus and made it believable. Pseudolus convinced me that he was behaving truthfully in imaginary circumstances of the play through the song “Pretty Little Picture.” Pseudolus tried to set the scene of Hero’s and Philia’s life together, which would lead to his freedom. Pseudolus’s independence is ultimately what drives him throughout the play and makes him go to extreme lengths such as having Hysterium dress as Philia and using the endowment of giving Senex the sleeping potion.

Personally, I think the opening number “Comedy Tonight” was the best musical performance the play had to offer. It was the very first song and set the stage for what was to come for the duration of the show. I enjoyed that every cast member was in this number, so when they came on stage again they were not completely foreign. A comedy tonight is exactly what I saw on Sunday afternoon at the matinee performance of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. I liked how there was so much going on that I did not know where to look. I thought this musical number was funny and well-acted because it gave me insight to actors’ personalities. The pacing was appropriate for this number because it was quick and exciting, which grabbed my attention. Additionally, the blocking for this scene was fitting because actors entered on stage when a line pertained to them. For example, the four Proteans were dancing foolishly, which went along with the line “Something familiar, something peculiar” in the song.

*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* was nothing short of a good time. I believe this production was a suitable choice for the Longwood Theatre Department because it allowed the actors the express themselves, while providing many laughs. The actors epitomized their roles, which made the show seem more believeable. This play was enticing and convincing, allowing me to transport myself back in time due to the degree of acting, level of singing, and choreography.

P.S. Pseudolus tricks Captain Miles Glorious into thinking his intended wife Philia is dead by having a funeral for her. He has Hysterium dress up as Philia and play dead in order to get the Captain to leave. Ultimately, when the Captain goes to kiss Philia he realizes it is not her. Finally, Erronius sees Hysterium dressed as Philia and realizes that she is his daughter, and that the Captain is his son.

This paper was proofread and I made the necessary corrections before turning it in.